Identification of BPL families requires to be reviewed at regular intervals to take into account the mobility of the households across the poverty line and migration of population.

(c) As reported by the Government of Delhi, 3,35,505 families having Jhuggi Ration Cards have been identified as BPL families and they are getting benefits under TPDS.

As per the latest report received, Government of Meghalaya has identified 1.72 lakh BPL families in the State. Number of BPL families identified by the Governments in individual cities or districts including Shillong in Meghalaya is not maintained in the Government of India.

Efficiency of P.D.S.

473. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to poor co-ordination between the Centre and States coupled with resource constraint on the part of the State Governments efficacy of the Public Distribution System has been seriously eroded;

(b) if so, what alternative methods are being considered so that highly subsidised foodgrains are not allowed to rot in Government godowns resulting in hardships to comparatively poorer sections of the society; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of introducing overall reforms in foodgrains production as suggested by the Planning Commission recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of Centre and State Governments. The Central Government has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation at subsidised prices of certain essential items, *viz.*, rice, wheat, sugar, imported edible oil and kerosene. The responsibility of distribution to the consumers through the network of FPSs rests with the State Governments.

In order to improve the PDS infrastructure, Government of India is providing financial assistance to the States/UT under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'construction of godowns' in remote hilly and rural areas and for purchase of mobile vans/trucks for transportation of PDS commodities and to function as mobile fair price shops, which is supplementary in nature. Financial

assistance is also provided to States/UTs under Central Sector Scheme "Training, Research and Monitoring" for providing training to the employees working in PDS operations and for purchase of a computer system in the Directorate of Food & Civil Supplies of the State Government/UT Administration in order to facilitate speedy flow of PDS related information besides funding the research studies on issues pertaining to PDS and food security.

In order to assist north eastern and hill States, Govt. of India is reimbursing road transport cost on actual basis for lifting of foodgrains from the base depot of FCI to the designated Principal Distribution Centres (PDCs) under the Hill Transport Subsidy (HTS) scheme for PDS foodgrains in the north eastern States and hill States.

Keeping in view the consensus on increasing the allocation of foodgrains to families below poverty line (BPL) Government of India increased the allocation for BPL families from 10 kg to 20 kg of foodgrains per family per month *w.e.f.* 1.4.2000. The number of BPL families for each State/UT, has been increased *w.e.f.* 1.12.2000 by shifting the base to the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of the earlier population projections of 1995. The BPL allocation of foodgrains has been increased from 20 kg to 25 kg per family per month *w.e.f.* July, 2001.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancement of production and productivity of food grains in the country. Special schemes have been evolved with a regionally differentiated strategy for concerted action in the under developed regions like eastern and north eastern states. Greater emphasis is also being given for development of diversified cropping pattern particularly for development of horticulture, oilseeds and pulses so as to ensure better returns to the farmers and also to meet demand/supply gap.

A.C.P. Scheme for Assistant Managers in F.C.I.

474. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about 250 Assistant Managers